Contingency plan for drought

*394. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any contingency plan has been drawn by the Centre to meet the situation arising out of the possible failure or weak monsoon season in the country, this year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether States have been advised to reschedule the credits advanced to farmers, payment of compensation to them and retention of agricultural subsidy and Minimum Support Price, in the light of the drought-like situation in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Contingency Plans to deal with droughts are made by State Governments. Central Government supplements the efforts of States to implement these Plans and to offer other supplementary assistance. For this purpose, various Departments of Central Government connected with provision of such assistance have identified action points and are in touch with the State Governments. Government is also in touch with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in the matter of granting relief to loanee farmers. State Governments have also been asked not to resort to coercive measures in realization of dues and to also grant requisite relief to farmers wherever it is within their competence to do so.

Central Schools in Himachal Pradesh

*395. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for opening of more Central Schools in Mandi, Kullu, Bilaspur and Una districts, in view of the pressing demand from serving/retired army personnel in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?